(Rs. crores)

		1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
(a)	Conservation including stowing	38.20	37.23	40.00	39.99	45.00	37.55
(b)	Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	27.00	27.00	40.59	40.59	55.00	55.00

The coal companies undertake stowing, protective works and construction of roads and subsequently approach the Coal Conservation and Development Advisory Committee (CCDA) constituted in terms of provisions of Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Rules, 1975 for subsidy against these works from the funds collected through excise duty collected under the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Act, 1974. The proposals of coal companies are examined from the point of view of eligibility of subsidy on a case to case basis within the limits of the budget.

The existing guidelines provide for reimbursement upto 75 per cent of the cost of protective works, 35 per cent of cost of sand stowing and 50 per cent of the cost of construction of roads, while the balance cost has to be borne by the concerned coal company and in some cases of road construction by the concerned State Government as well.

(c) For the year 1996-97 the following budget provision alongwith anticipated expenditure is given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	Budget Provision	Anticipated Expenditure
1. Conservation including stowing	50.00	50.00
2. Development of transport infrastructure in coalfield areas	50.00	50.00

Coloured Cotton

3215. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of coloured cotton in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of coloured cotton exported during the above period and the countries to which it has been exported;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that growers of coloured cotton are not getting remunerative price for their crop; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of the coloured cotton growers ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Brown cotton known as Cocanadaned is grown in Kakinada tract of Andhra Pradesh in small areas. Since 1995, naturally coloured cotton belonging to American cotton developed with the assistance of Cotton Corporation of India Ltd is grown in parts of Madhya Pradesh. 14.50 qtls. of brown coloured cotton (seed cotton) was produced during 1995-96.

(b) Coloured cotton lint has not been exported from the country.

(c) Farmers got about 72 per cent to 80 per cent more price for coloured cotton compared to white linted cotton.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Sericulture

3216. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to provide assistance to Assam for development of sericulture in the State is under consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the assistance likely to be provided during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Assam has forwarded proposals for the development of sericulture in the State. The Central Silk Board is preparing a project for integrated and sustained development of sericulture in the North-Eastern States including Assam for implementation during the IXth Five Year Plan period. The above proposals of the Government of Assam will also be considered by the Board while preparing the project report.

Decline in Production of Tea in Assam

3217. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the tea gardens in Assam have illegally occupied a large amount of the Government land;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the tea production per hectare of land in Assam is decreasing every year during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) There is no information about illegal occupation of Central Government Lands by Tea gardens.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Tea Gardens

3218. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tea gardens owned by the Union Government;

(b) the locations of those gardens alongwith their size and the total quantity of productions of each tea gardens during each of the last three years;

(c) whether only a few gardens are earning profits, while a large number of other tea gardens are incurring losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, garden-wise; and

(e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Requisite information in respect of tea garden owned by Central Public Sector Undertakings is attached as Statement.

(c) to (e) In so far as gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. are concerned, all the five gardens have been incurring losses on account of management problems, lack of funds with the Corporation for undertaking developmental activities in the gardens etc. In view of the consistent losses, it has been decided to dispose of all the five gardens owned by TTCI through outright sale.

As regards gardens owned by M/s. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd., only one tea garden viz. Hoolungooree tea estate has been incurring losses during the last three consecutive years. Steps have been taken by the management of M/s Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. to make the garden viable by undertaking developmental activities such as extension planting, replanting, rejuvenation etc.

STATEMENT

Details of tea gardens owned by the central public sector undertakings

S.No.	Name of the Tea Gardens with location	Planted Area (Hectares)	Production (Million kgs)		
			1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(A)	**Gardens under Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.**				
1.	Pathini Tea Estate, Karimgani Distt., Assam.	810.83	0.46	0.33	0.20
2.	Lookaan Tea Estate, Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.	417.70	0.48	0.44	0.42
3.	Pashok Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal.	305.70	0.13	0.09	0.04
4.	Vah Tukvar Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal.	197.08	0.06	0.05	0.01
5.	Potong Tea Estate, Darjeeling, West Bengal	138.44	0.06	0.05	0.08